

Change: In early 17th century, there was an ideological change of Japanese Buddhism. Peasants wanted salvation, but they did not have extra time to pray or to devote themselves to religious activities. But Shozan Suzuki, priest, said that devoting oneself to work is equivalent to devoting himself or herself to religious activities. Thus, work became the act toward salvation, and this was very similar to what Weber observed in Protestant society. At the same time, the samurai devoted themselves to the study of Confucian ethics, and their utmost value became the loyalty to the lord and the increase of the honor of their family. Thus, the samurai spent their daily lives for their lords and the honor of their families. **Theorist:** Weber - the ethics of Japanese capitalism

Goal: In 1868, there was Meiji Restoration. So the old feudal government was overthrown. In those days, the Western imperialism was very active. Thus, to cope against such imperialistic threats, Japan set up their goal to be a modern capitalistic nation. **Theorist: Marx** - The class struggle between the upper-class samurai and the lower-ranked samurai. Note: Some historians disagree to understand the Meiji Restoration as a class struggle in Marxian term.

Operations: The newly established government enforced its people to adopt the samurai ethic (loyalty to the superior and the utmost effort to increase the honor of their families) because they wanted to build the nation which was centered by Emperor to establish solidarity among Japanese people. The government insisted that Japan was a one united family. Thus, they demanded their people to be loyal to Emperor (head of the "Japan" family) and work for the honor of their families. The government believed that this ethos would be an effective countermeasure against the vicious Western imperialism. **Theorist:** Durkheim -the solidarity of solidarity and altruistic nature of Japanese society.

Feeling: Under the Meiji government, there was a mixture of samurai's ethics and peasants' ethics. Thus, Japanese people believed that the way for them to obtain salvation was to work hard for Emperor and their own families. This is the essence of Japanese capitalism. Here, these two feelings were not in conflict. They worked together and eventually became one unified ethics of Japanese capitalism. **Theorist** - Weber: The Spirit of Capitalism

Operation: To increase the honor of Emperor and their families, Japanese people became very "rational" to assess their work. And to increase the honor of Emperor and their families, they actively adopted various Western technologies so that Japan quickly "Westernized." **Theorist:** Durkheim - norms, organic solidarity

Goal: By the 1920s, Japanese capitalism flourished. Although WW II devastated Japanese infrastructure, Japan quickly recovered and became a major economic power because the "unified" spirit of Japanese capitalism mentioned above boosted the economic development. **Theorist:** Weber - capitalism's origins.